



Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Celebrates 70 Years Serving Waterloo Region

KITCHENER-WATERLOO —The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) proudly celebrates its 70th anniversary, honouring a remarkable legacy of connecting art, artists, and the community. Central to this milestone is the Gallery's renowned Permanent Collection, now comprising over 4,400 works that reflect the region's vibrant spirit and diverse stories. On Friday, March 13, the public is warmly invited to preview the exhibition. Members of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony will perform live music throughout the evening.

The Gallery presents [*Sharing the Passion: 70 Years of Building the Collection*](#), a historical survey examining significant works from KWAG's Permanent Collection. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity to experience 70 significant artworks, each a testament to the enduring relationship between KWAG and the Waterloo Region community it serves. Held in the public trust, the Collection is preserved in optimal condition for the enjoyment and education of the community — today and for future generations. Admission is free and open to all.



Founded in 1956 as a small volunteer-led initiative, KWAG has grown into Waterloo Region's largest public art gallery and an integral part of Canada's cultural landscape, thanks to the unwavering support of donors, members, and volunteers. The Gallery moved to a 9,000 square foot location at 43 Benton Street, a former church meeting hall, in 1968. At the time, there were 400 works in the Gallery's Permanent Collection. In 1980, the Gallery moved to its current purpose-built location in Centre In The Square, 101 Queen St. North, Kitchener.

"The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery is based on the belief that ideas and imagination enable us to become our best selves and change the world. Within the art museum field, we are proud of our courageous exploration of the most important issues of our time and our desire to be an inclusive and just organization."— Shirley Madill, Executive Director

Highlights from this anniversary exhibition include works from Canadian artists Kenojuak Ashevak, Shary Boyle, Edward Burtynsky, Kent Monkman, Norval Morriseau,

Rita Letendre, Michael Snow, Tom Thomson, and Joyce Wieland.

"There is a growing appreciation of how important art is in this age of innovation: it allows us to see the world in new ways. Institutions like KWAG effectively connect the work of the artist with a wide audience, and are key to society's progress. Among the galleries in Canada which do this important work, KWAG is a unique and valuable gem."— Edward Burtynsky, Officer of the Order of Canada, Artist

KWAG continues to shape the Permanent Collection as a living archive of the relationships, stories, and generosity and resources that are representative of the community it serves and the conversations that will shape the future of the region. The Gallery extends heartfelt gratitude to the many donors whose vision and commitment have enriched the collection for generations to come.

Land Acknowledgment

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Block 2 on the Haldimand Tract: land promised to Six Nations, which includes ten kilometers on each side of the Grand River. This is the traditional home of the Attawandaron (Neutral), Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee Peoples, whose resilience we honor by offering this Gallery as a space to reflect and learn from one another. We are committed to reconciliation and ensuring that our Gallery's programs and Permanent Collection demonstrate more diverse, culturally relevant Canadian art and artists.

About Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery

As Waterloo Region's leading public art gallery, the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (KWAG) connects people and ideas through art. Its nationally acclaimed exhibitions and programs welcome all to be inspired and challenged through a deepened understanding of ourselves, our cultures, and our communities. It offers dynamic public programs that inspire creativity and an appreciation of the visual arts in the Region and beyond. Admission is free.

Accessibility: [KWAG is fully accessible.](#)

Visit Us

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www.kwag.ca

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Imagery:

1. Kent Monkman, *Kiss the Sky* (detail), 2010. Acrylic on canvas, 151.1 x 120.6 cm. 2.

Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Permanent Collection: Gift of the Artist in honour of Shirley Madill, 2012. Photo by Robert McNair.
KWAG Bicycle Shed, photographer formerly known.

Sharing the Passion programming is sponsored by Wells Resolutions



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